

# Japanese Rendezvous

## STS-72 retrieves Space Flyer Unit, retrieves, deploys OAST Flyer, tests station hardware during space walks



The first mission of 1996 saw cooperation between two nations and testing of techniques for the future.

On flight day three, Commander Brian Duffy and Pilot Brent Jett maneuvered *Endeavour* toward the Japanese Space Flyer Unit and Mission Specialist Koichi Wakata plucked the satellite from its orbit and placed it in *Endeavour's* cargo bay, completing a mission begun by the Japanese 10 months before and ending with American astronauts bringing the satellite home.

NASA's extensive work to prepare astronauts and engineers for assembly of the International Space Station continued on STS-72. Mission Specialists Leroy Chiao, Dan Barry and Winston Scott spent more than 13 hours in space testing tools and techniques

that future space walkers will use to assemble the station in low-Earth orbit.

Through it all, the crew captured photos to share. From left to right, top to bottom:

- 1) *Endeavour* glides through space, backdropped against Australia's Shark Bay.
- 2) In *Endeavour's* airlock, Chiao, left, and Barry prepare for the first space walk of the mission that will test tools and techniques for the International Space Station.
- 3) During off-duty time, Wakata juggles a variety of objects in micro-gravity.
- 4) Chiao checks equipment for his space walk on *Endeavour's* mid-deck.
- 5) The traditional in-flight crew portrait includes, in front from left, Barry, Duffy and Chiao. Back

row from left are, Wakata, Jett and Scott.

- 6) Duffy mans the commander station during rendezvous operations with the SFU.
- 7) During the first space walk, Barry unfolds the rigid umbilical in *Endeavour's* payload bay.
- 8) On *Endeavour's* forward flight deck, Scott checks procedures for SFU rendezvous operations.
- 9) Barry spends some of his more than six hours in *Endeavour's* cargo bay during the first of two space walks.
- 10) Wakata captures the Space Flyer Unit and berths the satellite in *Endeavour's* cargo bay. After capture, Wakata deployed and retrieved the OAST flyer also in the payload bay.
- 11) Jett checks procedures at the pilot's station on *Endeavour's* flight deck. □

